

SPECIAL MEETING NORTH SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 5, 2007

KENDALL-DEAN SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. and began with the prayer and the pledge to the flag. Council members present were Mr. Keeley, Mr. Leclerc, Mr. Lovett, Mr. Zwolenski and Mrs. Thibault. Town Solicitor Hadden was also present. Town Administrator Lowe was away on vacation.

JOINT MEETING WITH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

School Committee members Mrs. Bonas, Mr. Lafleur, Mrs. Meo and Mr. Vadenais as well as Superintendent of Schools Lindberg were in attendance. Mrs. Flaherty was unable to attend.

New Elementary School

Mr. Lafleur noted that the School Committee wishes to proceed with a referendum for a new elementary school but wants to be sure that the middle school has begun construction and proceeding smoothly. The Committee has not taken a position on whether or not to go forward in November.

Mr. Vadenais noted that a proposal was submitted to the Department of Education in October and did not include student enrollment numbers from the new Rankin Path development. If the proposal is approved, the town has three years to start construction. He also

noted that in the future, voters will have to approve a project before it goes to the Board of Regents.

The School Committee and Town Council members agreed that there needs to be a review of the Halliwell school design.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Leclerc, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to ask the School Committee to contact the previous members of the School Facilities Planning Task Force Committee and ask them if they would be willing to serve and review the elementary school design.

FY08 Pre-Budget Consultation per S3050

Under this law there is a requirement for a pre-budget consultation. At least 60 days prior to but not more than 90 days prior to the formal submission of the school budget to the appropriate town official, there shall be a joint pre-budget meeting between the School Committee and the Town Council. Mr. Lafleur stated this meeting would be part of that regulation.

FY08 Operating Budget/Implications S3050

Mr. Lindberg commented that there are a lot of questions revolving around this bill. He is planning on organizing a task force to examine and review the legislation and report its findings at a future joint meeting between the School Committee and the Town Council. Mr. Lindberg presented an overview of the implications of S3050. He

spoke about tax levy limits, property tax cap exceptions and local override provisions. One suggestion was to draft a resolution requesting less unfunded and underfunded state mandates.

FY08 Capital Budget Request

Mr. Lindberg stated that included in the capital request is the security system and the Halliwell project. He would also like to have an emergency contingency fund in an approximate amount of \$30,000 in case of needed repairs at one of the schools.

Future Joint Meeting Dates

Mr. Lafleur proposed at least three more joint meetings and he agreed to confer with Mrs. Thibault about scheduling one in May.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Lovett, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to enter into executive session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) to discuss Narragansett Improvement vs. Town of North Smithfield and the Woonsocket Water Rate Hearing and pursuant to 42-46-5(A)(5) to discuss the acquisition or lease of real property.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Keeley, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to come out of executive session at 9:35 P.M. and to seal the minutes.

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MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Leclerc, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to approve Assistant Town Solicitor Robert Rossi handling potential litigation pertaining to the Planning Board and Narragansett Improvement.

LIQUOR LICENSE VIOLATION HEARING RE: TOWN & COUNTRY LIQUORS

Mr. Hadden's recommendation to the Council for serving alcohol to an underage person was a three-day suspension with one day being on the weekend. He noted that since the incident Mr. Dalti and all of his employees have recertified in alcohol server training.

Mr. Dalti admitted that he had made a mistake and was very sorry. He promised it would not happen again.

Mr. Zwolenski noted that in 30 years of doing business, Mr. Dalti has had only three violations. However, should this happen again, the penalty would be severe.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Keeley, and voted unanimously on a roll call vote that Town and Country Liquors close on Sunday, February 25 and Monday, February 26, 2007.

RESOLUTION RE: NEW MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

Alison Peirce and Paul Dupuis, members of the Board of Trustees,

addressed the Council. They explained that the present building is at capacity and no longer meets the needs of the community. The Board's goal is to develop a new library and they may have a possible location at the Slatersville River Properties site. The Board has determined, however, that they need to gather more information and are not ready to proceed with a spring election at this time.

AWARD OF BID – FUEL

Public Works Director Raymond Pendergast explained that he has contacted the City of Warwick who recently went out to bid on behalf of all members of the RI Municipal Purchasing Agents Association, of which North Smithfield is a member. Seven vendors were accepted for Bid #2007-131 Gasoline & Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel.

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Leclerc, and voted unanimously on an aye vote that, based upon the recommendations of the Public Works Director and the Finance Director, the bid for diesel and unleaded fuel be awarded to Buckley Energy Group.

LIZ DEVELOPMENT PHASE 1 SEWER BOND

MOTION by Mr. Zwolenski, seconded by Mr. Leclerc, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to table this to February 20th since no one was present to discuss the matter.

2ND READING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT RE: SUMMIT AVENUE PARKING

The following ordinance was read for the second time and passed unanimously on a roll call vote: “It is ordained by the Town Council of the Town of North Smithfield as follows: That the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 15, entitled, “TRAFFIC”, Section 15-5 entitled “No parking and limited parking; traffic-control devices”, subsection 15-5(32) shall be amended to add the following: Sec. 15-5(32) (32) [existing] No vehicle shall be parked on the westerly side of Summit Avenue between the extreme property lines of street addresses 41 Summit Avenue and 43 Summit Avenue. [new] In addition, no vehicle shall be parked at any time on the southerly side of Summit Avenue, between the extreme property lines of street addresses 43 Summit Avenue and 57 Summit Avenue. This ordinance shall take effect on the date of passage and in accordance with the Town Charter.”

2ND READING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT RE: SEWER USE CHARGES

The following ordinance was read for the second time and passed unanimously on a roll call vote: “It is ordained by the Town Council of the town of North Smithfield as follows: That the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8, entitled, “HEALTH AND SANITATION”, Section 8-34 entitled “Sewer Use Charges”, subsection (f) entitled “Payment of Bills” shall be amended as follows: Sec. 8-34(f): The entire section shall remain unchanged with the exception of the amendment to the following sentence: “Unpaid bills shall bear interest at the rate of

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eight (8) twelve (12) percent per annum.” This ordinance shall take effect on the date of passage and in accordance with the Town Charter,

and shall apply to all amounts initially assessed as of April 15, 2007.”

MOTION by Mr. Lovett, seconded by Mr. Leclerc and Mr. Keeley, and voted unanimously on an aye vote to adjourn at 10:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Todd, Town Clerk